

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-48 are pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claims 10-28 as directed by the Examiner. Applicants have also requested that the Examiner renumber the remaining claims 29-47 per the Office Action.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that claims "10-47" are pending and that claims "10-48" are pending. Applicants believe that claims 10-47 are pending, after having canceled claims 10-28.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the invention, claiming that the application contains the following patentably distinct species:

A specific combination of identified structural backbone of the polymer with specific hydrophobic entities specified along with functionalities for each and in combination with specific cross-linking agent.

For purposes of Applicants election of a single species for prosecution, Applicants assert that the Examiner has identified only a single species and therefore, election of such species is hereby made. Applicants further assert that claims 29-47 are readable on the elected species.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 29-48 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as broader than one of ordinary skill in the art is enabled to practice the invention.

Applicants assert that each of the claims is either (a) supported directly in the specification or (b) within the ordinary skill of one in the art. To clarify, Applicants assert that the following claims find support in at least the cited portions of the specification:

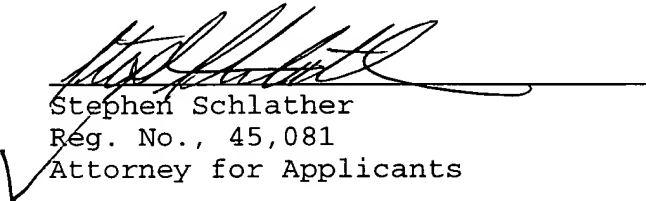
Claim 29 - Pg. 4, ll. 11-20;
Claim 30 - Pg. 4, ll. 36-38;
Claim 31 - Pg. 5, ll. 19-36;
Claim 32 - Pg. 5, ll. 19-36;
Claim 33 - Pg. 4, ll. 29-31;
Claim 34 - Pg. 6, ll. 11-14;
Claim 35 - Pg. 6, ll. 14-17;
Claim 37 - Pg. 7, ll. 10-15;
Claim 38 - Pg. 8, ll. 1-5;
Claim 39 - Pg. 5, ll. 10-36;
Claim 40 - Pg. 5, ll. 20-21;
Claim 41 - Pg. 5, ll. 26-27;
Claim 43 - Pg. 5, ll. 29-34;
Claim 45 - Pg. 8, ll. 13-15;
Claim 46 - Pg. 8, ll. 13-15;
Claim 47 - Pg. 8, ll. 18-21.

With regard to claim 44, clearly this is within the ordinary skill of one in the art as it is well known that a stable gel is generally beneficial.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the present application and claims 29 - 47 are in proper condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19-0615(57.0272) any applicable fees or credits.

Respectfully submitted,



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